

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----123421 210907Z /15

P 210658Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2883

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 4871

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, JO, PK, US, XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH CROWN PRINCE--PAKISTAN

SUMMARY: GENERAL ZIA AL-HAQUE HAS SENT CROWN PRINCE HASSAN A MESSAGE FOLLOWING HASSAN'S TALK WITH YOU AUGUST 11 IN AMMAN. THE GENERAL WELCOMES THE TALKS IN WHICH HASSAN PASSED ON TO YOU HIS IMPRESSIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN, REAFFIRMS PAKISTAN'S COMMITMENTS TO TRADITIONAL CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S., URGES POSITIVE CONSIDERATION BY U.S. OF QUESTIONS OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY, AND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID, INDICATES DESIRE FOR CREATING A "GOOD LINK" TO U.S. THROUGH OUR NEW AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD AND REPEATS PAKISTAN'S INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT DURING EXPECTED UPCOMING TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA. HASSAN SAID BHUTTO HAD BEEN CONSIDERING CALLING IN THE SOVIETS IF U.S. WAS NOT POSITIVE; GENERAL ZIA HAS ABANDONED THIS IDEA AND WANTS U.S. TO KNOW IT. HASSAN PERSONALLY BELIEVES BHUTTO WILL NOT STAND FOR RE-ELECTION AND THAT GENERAL ZIA IS DETERMINED

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TO MAKE ELECTIONS WORK IN OCTOBER. HASSAN SAID SHAH IS UNDULY ALARMED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PAKISTAN AND GENERAL ZIA HAS ALREADY MOVED TO CURB BALUCH INDEPENDENCE TYPES WHO MIGHT ACT AGAINST IRANIAN INTERESTS. PAKISTANIS HOPE FOR MORE SUPPORT AND AID FROM IRAN.
END SUMMARY

1. CROWN PRINCE CALLED ME ON AUGUST 20 TO FOLLOW UP HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU AUGUST 11 ON HIS VISIT TO PAKISTAN. HE ASKED THAT I KEEP THIS INFORMATION PARTICULARLY CLOSE.

2. HASSAN READ ME LETTER FROM GENERAL AL-HAQUE AND ASKED ME TO TAKE NOTES ON THE LETTER TO GIVE YOU A FULL IDEA OF THE CONINUING EXCHANGE. LETTER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) THANKED HASSAN FOR PASSING ON TO YOU CERTAIN IDEAS WHICH WERE "COMPLETELY IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR BILATERAL TALKS."

B) GENERAL STRESSED CONTINUITY OF PAKISTAN'S TRADITIONAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ITS INTENTION TO HONOR ALL AGREEMENTS AND COOPERATE WITH THE U.S.

C) THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY IS IMPORTANT FOR PAKISTAN. HERE HASSAN ADDED A PERSONAL INTERPOLATION THAT GENERAL ZIA CANNOT MOVE BACK ON AN ISSUE ON WHICH PREVIOUSLY MAJOR PAKISTANI POLITICAL PARTIES HAD BEEN IN AGREEMENT. HASSAN ALSO STRESSED APPLICABILITY OF PAKISTAN'S
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WILLINGNESS TO STAND BEHIND ALL PAST BILATERAL COMMITMENTS TO THE U.S.

D) GENERAL ZIA HAS MET ONCE WITH THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN AND HAS ALREADY BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY HIM. HASSAN SAID GENERAL ZIA HAD KNOWN PAST U.S. AMBASSADOR QUITE WELL AND HE HOPED TO CREATE A GOOD LINK WITH THE U.S. THROUGH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL.

E) PAKISTAN WAS AWARE THAT YOU INTENDED TO VISIT SOUTH ASIA SHORTLY AND GENERAL ZIA WISHED TO RENEW PAKISTAN'S STANDING INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT THE COUNTRY AND HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DO SO DURING YOUR FORTHCOMING TRIP.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 4871

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

3. HASSAN AND I THEN DISCUSSED THE QUESTION FURTHER.
HE SAID GENERAL ZIA HAD TOLD HIM THAT PRIME MINISTER
BHUTTO PRIOR TO THE TAKE-OVER HAD INFORMED THE PAKISTAN MILITARY
GENERAL STAFF THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO
MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIETS IF THE U.S. CONTINUED TO
BE NEGATIVE ON A NUMBER OF POINTS INCLUDING THE NUCLEAR
REPROCESSING FACILITY AND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.
HASSAN STRESSED THAT THE LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM GENERAL
AL-HAQUE WAS DESIGNED TO CONVEY TO THE U.S. THAT THIS NOT THE
INTENTION OF THE PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT.
HASSAN SAID HE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU
THAT THE U.S. STILL HOPED TO RECONVENE
ASSISTANCE CONSORTIUM SOMETIME IN OCTOBER AND
HE HOPED THAT CERTAIN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE IN THE
PIPELINE FOR PAKISTAN.

4. HASSAN COMMENTED THAT JOSEPH NYE HAD BEEN
FULLY BRIEFED IN PAKISTAN AND UNDERSTOOD WELL THE
PAKISTANI POSITION. FURTHER, THERE HAD BEEN AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM (HASSAN) TO LET GENERAL ZIA KNOW OF THE U.S.
FEELING THAT EVERYTIME THE U.S. TRIED TO RAISE
PROBLEMS OR ISSUES, THE PREVIOUS PAKISTANI
REACTION HAD BEEN TO BRING DOWN THE BOOM ON THE

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U.S. HASSAN INSISTED THAT GENERAL ZIA WAS TRYING
TO ENTER INTO A NEW RELATIONSHIP AND A NEW SPIRIT
ON THIS KIND OF ISSUE. AGAIN HASSAN STRESSED
BHUTTO'S PREVIOUS INTENTION TO MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIETS AND
GENERAL ZIA'S OPPOSITE INCLINATIONS.

5. I ASKED HASSAN ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

HE SAID THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS IN A DILEMMA WHERE MOVING TOO SLOW WILL RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR INTENTION TO TURN THINGS OVER TO CIVIL RULE AND MOVING TOO FAST RISKS NOT BEING PROPERLY PREPARED. GENERAL ZIA IS COOL, DETERMINED, AND CONFIDENT HE CAN BRING OFF THE ELECTIONS. HASSAN TOLD ME IT WAS HIS OWN PERSONAL JUDGMENT THAT BHUTTO WILL NOT STAND IN OCTOBER. HE SAID THAT THE INCREASING EXPOSURE OF THE CORRUPTION AND MAL-ADMINISTRATION OF THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP BHUTTO OUT OF THE RACE. AT THE MOMENT GENERAL ZIA WAS GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID PUTTING BHUTTO BACK INTO JAIL PARTLY TO AVOID MAKING A MARTYR OF HIM.

6. HASSAN, AS YOU KNOW, IS EXTREMELY SYMPATHETIC WITH GENERAL ZIA'S EFFORTS AND BELIEVES THE GENERAL IS SINCERE. HE MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF TELLING ME THAT ZIA THINKS CAREFULLY AHEAD ABOUT HIS MOVES AND HAS AROUND HIM A COTERIE OF EXCELLENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ADVISORS FROM THE SENIOR TECHNICAL LEVELS OF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT. HE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR THE HEADS OF THE CIVIL AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICES.

7. GENERAL ZIA BADLY WANTS MORE UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN. HASSAN DISCOUNTED
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HEAVILY SHAH'S CONCERNS (WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED TO HUSSEIN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO IRAN) THAT GENERAL ZIA'S ELECTIONS WILL LEAD TO INTRODUCTION OF MORE CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC INFLUENCE. HASSAN SAID SHAH CONFUSES HIS OWN CONSERVATIVE MULLAHS WITH THOSE IN PAKISTAN; THERE IS LITTLE REAL COMPARABILITY. HASSAN ALSO TOLD ME THAT BALUCH INDEPENDENT GROUP LEADER (RAHUR?) HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO KARACHI TO ALLAY SHAH'S FEARS. SHAH WAS APPARENTLY THINKING ABOUT SENDING IRANIAN TROOPS TO SOUTHEASTERN PART OF HIS COUNTRY IN EXPECTATION OF A RESURGENCE OF BALUCHI NATIONALISM AND INDEPENDENCE UNDER NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

8. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO ISLAMABAD AND TEHRAN.
PICKERING

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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